

TO: UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Brian McKeon

Application/Control Number: 10/767,529

Original Filing Date: 29/Jan/2004

Art Unit: 2109

Examiner: TABOR, AMARE F

For: Regulated Issuance of Digital Certificates

Date: 22/Jul/2007

Dear Sir,

This document is filed in response to the Office Action dated 27/Apr/2007. Thank you for the opportunity to respond. The responses are laid out to align with the text of the Office Action and the paragraphs of the Office Action are listed for cross-referencing..

Para 2. Please find attached a certified copy of the foreign (Australian) provisional patent application confirming the date of application of 31/Jan/2003.

Para 3. The embedded hyperlink has been replaced by a company contact reference.

Para 4. Paragraph numbering has been revised to [001], [002], .. as suggested by the examiner.

Para 5. The "trusted module" term is an abstraction of the "security token" term and a reference to the "trusted module" term has been introduced in the specification following the first use of the "security token" term.

The term "smartcard" was used in claims and "smart card" was used in the specification. The "smart card" term in the specification has been revised to "smartcard". The "USB token" packaging alternative to smartcard is now in the specification.

Para 6. The claims have been adjusted to be solely computer system claims and redundant claims have been deleted.

Para 7. The redundant text has been deleted and the system and method claims have been reduced to solely computer system claims.

Para 8. A drawing has been added and the specification updated to reference the drawing elements.

Para 9. Claim 1 has been adjusted with an intention to comply with 35 U.S.C. 101.

Para 10. The claims have been adjusted with an intention to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The term "cryptographic ticket" has been introduced within the specification.

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Para 11. The claims have been adjusted with an intention to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The "such as" phrase has been replaced by a definite phrase referring to a secure hardware module or a smartcard or a USB token.

Para 12. The method described by the referenced Kay (US Patent No. 6,223,166 B1) is where a remote user station is able to request issuance of "a ticket" from a central authority using standard protocols. Every issued ticket involves a request to the central authority. This issuance of single tickets is reflected in the claims of Kay. The invention in 10/767,529 describes a more efficient technique whereby a remote user station would be capable of issuance of multiple tickets without reference back to the central authority. The remote user station would be able to request from the central authority a "cryptographic ticket" that would allow the issuance of further digital certificates. The new figure and associated references from the specification should clarify the use of the "ticket" terminology in 10/767,529.

The described role of the smartcard in the patent of Kay differs from that in the invention disclosed in 10/767,529. Kay are describing the smartcard as a carrier of the electronic ticket purchased by a purchaser. In 10/767,529 the role of the smartcard is equivalent to a trusted module at a remote user station in Kay ie it issues digital certificates to purchasers. The claims of 10/767,529 have been revised to clarify the steps of the new invention.

It is hoped that the revised claims will satisfy the comment concerning the old claim 7 concerning the issuance of a pre-determined number of certificates. The confusion has arisen due to the use of the term "cryptographic ticket" to refer to the ticket that is being passed between what Kay would refer to as the central server and the remote user stations in Kay. Kay's use of the 'ticket' term is for tickets issued from the remote user stations.

I hope that the above notes and the attached revised specification and included diagram addresses your questions. If there are any of the above points that could be clarified via email or phone I can be contacted at brian.mckeon@sentrypm.com or on 415-370-5977.

Yours Sincerely



Brian McKeon

Attachments:

1. Certified copy of Australian provisional patent application
2. Updated Patent Application with change bars.
3. Updated Patent Application without change bars
4. Associated diagrams